

**Office of Congressman Thomas M. Davis III**  
**11<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, VIRGINIA**



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**EPA Administrator Whitman and US Rep. Tom Davis  
Receive VEPCO Commitment of \$1 Million to Reduce  
Fairfax School Bus Emissions**

WASHINGTON—Today at Annandale Terrace Elementary School, EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman and Congressman Tom Davis announced VEPCO's commitment of \$1 million to Fairfax County to retrofit school buses to reduce diesel engine pollution. Fairfax County owns the second largest school bus fleet in the nation.

These funds are part of an \$1.2 billion clean air settlement under which VEPCO will spend \$13.9 million for projects in each of five states, and will eliminate 237,000 tons of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides each year from eight coal-fired power plants.

Congressman Tom Davis stated, "During her tenure at EPA, Governor Whitman has done a great deal to reduce the smog that comes from diesel buses and trucks as well as off-road diesel vehicles. She introduced the Clean School Bus USA initiative to further improve the air we breathe for our nation's children. I want to thank Governor Whitman for targeting these funds to Fairfax. We can all breathe a little easier knowing this program on the way."

"By working together, we can reduce pollution from public school buses making sure that school buses are also a very clean way for children to get to school. Clean School Bus USA brings together partners from business, education, transportation, and public health organizations," Davis concluded.

**BACKGROUND:**

Administrator Whitman recently announced Clean School Bus USA, a nationwide program to reduce diesel emissions from school buses to protect the health of America's children.

Over 24 million children ride the school bus everyday. On average, students spend an hour and a half each weekday in a school bus. School buses drive more than 4 billion miles each year. School buses are the safest way for children to get to school. However, pollution from diesel vehicles has health implications for everyone, especially children.

The goal of Clean School Bus USA is to reduce both children's exposure to diesel exhaust and the amount of air pollution created by diesel school buses. Goals include:

- Encouraging policies and practices to eliminate unnecessary public school bus idling.
- Upgrading ("retrofitting") buses that will remain in the fleet with better emission control technologies and/or fueling them with cleaner fuels.
- Replacing the oldest buses in the fleet with new, less polluting buses.

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